



CCWRO Welfare News

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In Brief

- On December 18, 2014 California notified the Federal Department of Health and Human Services that California would not be submitting a request for TANF caseload reduction credit because California has concluded that it could not earn a caseload deduction.

- DSS reviewed Madera County's Work Participation Rate (WPR) data and DSS found 30 cases that were using earnings statements that cover more than one month. The County also failed to verify hours; projected hours worked incorrectly and casefiles had missing documentation to support hours reported. This is a 25% error rate for Madera.

- Yuba County WPR data verification revealed a 30% error rate. The error rate included cases in which job search hours were not verifiable or only partially verifiable and cases in which the County reported that the WPR had been met but had not been met.

- The SB 1041 Implementation Field report of September 2013 for Orange County assert that there were 5,102 WtW enrollees and 7,610 mandatory participants. An enrollee is defined as a person who is referred to appraisal. A participant is one who either completes or fails to complete appraisal and subsequent WtW steps of the WtW maze. The report is silent on why only 1,375 participants of the 4,516 unduplicated participants received transportation. In other words, 77% of the participants did not receive transportation. We wonder if 77% of Orange County Welfare Department employees or 77% of the DSS staff do not submit travel claims when they travel and are entitled to transportation reimbursement. It should also be noted that county and state employees do not live on an average fixed income that is equal to 21% of the supplemental poverty level.

- The Yolo County SB 1041 Implementation Field report shows that there are 712 enrollees and 1,028 participants. In March 2014 there were 565 unduplicated participants in rural Yolo County but only 44 participants received transportation. Over 90% failed to receive transportation reimbursements.

GOVERNOR'S 2015-2016 STATE BUDGET

The Governor unveiled his 2015-2016 state budget on January 9, 2015.

There were no major surprises in the proposed budget. Just like last year's budget, the Governor proposes to transfer \$1.5 billion from the CalWORKs budget to the General Fund. The TANF program is funded with \$3.7 billion federal block grant and the State of California puts up about a \$3 billion match to be eligible for the \$3.7 billion block grant. In 2014-2015 only \$5.1 billion was spent on CalWORKs impoverished families with babies and minor children enduring the ravages of unprecendented high poverty.

For this fiscal year, the CalWORKs caseload is estimated to be about 533,000 cases.

The administration touts the 10% increase in grants done last two years as addressing the deep poverty of CalWORKs children in 2015-2016. With the 10% grant increase, the average CalWORKs grant for a family of three effective April 1, 2015 will be \$508 a month, that is approximately 31% of the federal poverty level and 21% of the supplemental poverty level. **This is equal to what CalWORKs families received in 1982.**

State of the CalWORKs Program in 2015

2015-2016 CalWORKs Caseload - 533,000 cases

30% of the Total CalWORKs Caseload	70% of the Total CalWORKs Caseload
160,000 cases with a grant for their family size	373,000 cases with penalties, sanctions, MFG children, timing out due to 24/48 month clock and other penalties & sanctions.
CalWORKs grant @ 34% of Federal Poverty Level	CalWORKs grant @ 27% of Federal Poverty Level
CalWORKs grant @ 23% of the Supplemental Poverty level	CalWORKs grant @ 19% of the Supplemental Poverty level

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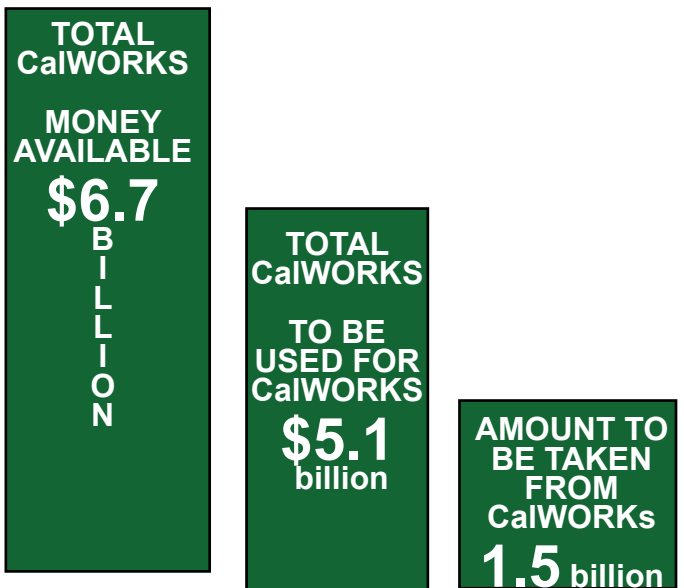
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The average CalWORKs grant for a family of three (3) with the 5% increase in CalWORKs grant effective April 1, 2014 authorized in last year's budget resulted in an average monthly CalWORKs grant of \$508. This average grant is equal to 31% of FLP and 21% of the SPL which is the amount CalWORKs (AFDC) recipients received in 1983 in California.

This year's budget did not allocate any funds for the SSI and CalWORKs COLA, the two primary safety net programs for California's families. The budget did authorize other cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) reflected below.

- 6100-119-0001 – Educational Services for Foster Care Youth - \$241,000
- 6100-119-150 – American Indian Early Childhood Education - \$9,000
- 6100-119-151 – American Indian Early Education Centers - \$64,000
- 6100-161-001 –Special Education Programs for Individuals with Exceptional Needs – \$57,668,000
- 6100-161-001 - Early Education Programs for Individuals with Exceptional Needs \$1,388,000
- 6100-203-0890 – Child Nutrition Programs - \$5,562,000
- CalWORK COLA - \$00.00
- SSI COLA - \$00.00

Where would the money come from to cover the cost of the CalWORKs COLA? The CalWORKs program. The governor proposes to take \$1.5 billion from CalWORKs as a contribution to the General Funds. Why not use that for the California children enduring the highest poevrty rates in America?



LEADER MODIFIES CW2200

Los Angeles County asked CDSS if they could add a request for WtW verification to the CW 2200. DPSS stated that participants are required to provide employment schedules, community services schedules, mental health and substance abuse appointment schedules, education plans for vocational education and training programs, employment verification, supportive services receipts – fund spent/used appropriately, attendance and progress reports, CW 61, family stabilization – proof of homelessness, excused absence verification, good cause verification, documentation to stop non-compliance/sanction process and proof of job search. DSS informed DPSS that they can use the CW 2200 for WtW verification, but they must add an explanation of types of acceptable verification. Los Angeles County did not inform DSS that they also added the word “optional for” to the last page of the CW 2200. Many counties have been unlawfully withholding the last page of CW 2200 form from applicants and recipients. Thus, applicants and recipients who need assistance with getting verification are not able to request such assistance from the county.

The Gandhi Principles of Service and CalWORKs

“A customer is the most important visitor on our premises; he or she is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him or her. He or she is not an outsider in our business. He or she is a part of it. We are not doing him or her a favor by serving. He or she is doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so....”. Mahatma Gandhi.

This is the model that Monterey County is promoting for serving the beneficiaries of programs administered by the Monterey County Department of Human Services. It sounds great. We wonder if any person who works for the county who does not adhere to this wonderful standard is allowed to continue to work? Of the 1,222 unduplicated participants in WtW, would a WtW worker who does not issue transportation to 537 WtW participants be adhering to the Gandhi principles?

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It is great to put these wonderful words out there, but there must be a cultural change. For example, any case in which no transportation reimbursement is issued should be reviewed by the Director. Why is a family living on 21% of the supplemental poverty rate cash income not receiving money for transportation that he or she is clearly entitled to under the law?

We must admit that it is indeed refreshing to see these fine words on emails floating around the State of California and the County of Monterey and we applaud the Director of Monterey County, Elliot Richardson it.

Covered California State Hearings Data

At a recent CDSS State Hearing Division meeting with advocates the following data was shared regarding Medi-Cal and Covered California state hearings.

The good news is that about 75% hearing requests were being granted. The bad news is that there are many problems in the program as evidenced with the hearing requests and the rate of grants. Although the Covered California staff are authorized to resolve cases before the hearings, staff are not able to spot all of the errors and take corrective action before it gets to the Administrative Law Judge.

There is also some bad news at the expedited hearing arena. It appears that 80% of the expedited hearings are denied. We do not have any evidence of the types of expedited hearings filed the types that are granted and those that are denied.

CDSS State Hearing Division ACA Hearings Data 10-13-14 through 12-14-14

	Cov- ered Califor- nia	Dual Elig.	MAGI Medi- Cal	TOTAL
Hearings Filed	4,916	1,623	792	7,331
Cases Heard	2,782	883	513	4,178
Withdrawals	331	116	91	538
Conditional Withdrawals	410	109	128	647
VCW	15	0	2	17
Granted Decision	670	139	54	863
Denied Decision	261	12	12	310

Released Decisions

Grant in Part	98	61	6	165
Grant	670	139	54	863
Dismissals	512	95	81	688
Denials	261	37	12	310

Expedited Hearings

Approved	270	91	31	392
Denied	863	279	55	1197